

REMARKS CONVERNING THE AMENDMENTS

The above amendments were made in an effort to more clearly define the presently claimed technology. Antecedent basis for the amendments may be found generally in the specification and, for example, on page 3, lines 11-18; page 4, lines 19-30; and page 6, lines 4-30.

RESPONSE TO THE REJECTION

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Nicastro et al. (US Patent No. 6,554,704). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present claims are limited to a pachinko-style movement of the object through pegs or gates, in a downward movement of the object through one route of multiple adjacent routes. The Nicastro object movement (e.g., of the Pac-Man figure) is a free moving pathway that may be upward as well as downward, right-to-left as well as left-to-right, combinations thereof and may even re-traverse a single location, but does not move in only a single direction. That form of movement is not possible in a pachinko-style movement as recited and as known in the art. The Dicastro et al. game also collects symbols in the primary reel-type game only as a means for entering a bonus event, with the moving Pac-Man images.

In the maze feature shown in Figures 12-16, for example, the symbols (e.g., the fruits collected) are not shown in the maze, but are randomly assigned upon collection of a large dot (Dicastro et al., column 5, line 53 through column 6, line 65). The collected symbols are therefore not “displayed and provided” as recited in claim 1 and NEW claim 25.

Claim 25 is also specifically limited to play of a base game in which symbols are collected and displayed. Claim 25 also limits the display of the collected symbols to a reel-type display (as shown in FIG. 1 of the present application) as opposed to the column collection of fruit symbols (shown as elements **76** and **78** in FIG. 14 of Dicastro et al.).

CONCLUSION

The above claims detail limitations that are neither taught nor obvious from the teachings of Dicastro et al. The amended claims are therefore patentable.

If the Examiner believes that any remaining issues may be resolved by telephone interview, he is courteously invited to call the attorney of record at **952.832.9090** to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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